

1865

1915

SOUVENIR

OF THE

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

of the ASSASSINATION
and DEATH *of*



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

September, Nineteen Fifteen

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Assassination and Death of Abraham Lincoln



ABRAHAM LINCOLN was born in Hodgenville, Harden County, Ky., February 12, 1808. He was the son of Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln. In 1830 the family moved to Illinois and he became a citizen of that State. He was a member of the State Legislature for two terms. He married Mary Todd November 4, 1830. He was a Representative to Congress in 1847, and elected President of the United States in 1860, and re-elected in 1864.

The Confederate Government in its desperation during the last months of the war had used pitiable and despicable means to postpone the approaching doom. Soon after the re-election of President Lincoln an advertisement appeared in a newspaper published in Selma, Ala., proposing to raise a fund for the assassination of the President and Vice-President.

On the evening of April 14, 1865, arrangements were made for President and Mrs. Lincoln and General and Mrs. Grant to attend the performance at Ford's Theater. General and Mrs. Grant desired to leave the city and informed the President that they could not accept the proffered invitation. Invitations were accordingly sent to Miss Harris and Major Rathbun, daughter and stepson of Senator Harris. On this evening the drama "Our American Cousin" was to be enacted, and Miss Laura Keene, a favorite actress, had chosen it on the occasion of her benefit.

The audience crowding the theater rose and cheered as the presidential party entered the box assigned them. The orchestra played "Hail to the Chief." The President acknowledged the kind reception and the performance went on.

The box in which the President and his party were sitting had been decorated with the Stars and Stripes. It was 10 o'clock and the curtain had risen on the second scene of the last act. At that time John Wilkes Booth dismounted from his horse in the rear of the theater, gave his rein to a boy, passed into the restaurant, and drank a glass of brandy. He then entered the front of the theater and reached the door opening to the area behind the President's box. He placed the wooden bar across the door, stepped to the box door, peeped through the hole which he had bored and saw the position of the President, drew his revolver and knife and softly entered. He held the pistol near the President's head, fired, and leaped forward. Major Rathbun sprang to seize him. Booth struck at him with his knife. Rathbun, in parrying the stroke, received a wound in the arm. In leaping upon the stage a spur on one of Booth's feet caught in the folds of the flag he hated and he fell headlong. A bone of one leg was broken, but he rose, shouted his triumphant shout, "Sic semper tyrannis! The South is avenged!" ran across the stage, and disappeared.

The President was borne to a small house (516 10th street northwest) across the street. Mrs. Lincoln, dazed and wild with grief, followed, tenderly cared for by Miss Harris. Through the night members of the Cabinet, physicians, and weeping family watched the ebbing tide of life. A little past 7 o'clock in the morning (April 15, 1865) Abraham Lincoln died.

John Wilkes Booth was a dramatic actor, 26 years old; his form was manly, his bearing that of a gentleman. In parlor or drawing-room he was an attractive figure. He chose for his accomplices Lewis Powell, alias Lewis Payne, who had served the Confederates as a spy; George Atzerodt, who had frequently been in Richmond with contraband of war; Daniel E. Herold, who had been a student of pharmacy. Spangler, Arnold, McLaughlin, and Doctor Mudd were lesser accomplices. Their rendezvous was in a boarding-house kept by Mrs. Mary Surratt at 541 H street northwest. She also owned an estate at Surrattsville, on the road leading to Port Tobacco. John Surratt, her son, was also an accomplice. It is not known just when Booth made their acquaintance. By his almost hypnotic power they became obedient to his will. Lewis Payne attempted to murder Secretary Seward, wounded Frederick Seward and the attendants, made his way to the house of Mrs. Surratt, and was captured.

Booth and Herold made their way from place to place, finding shelter at last in the barn of Mr. Garrett, near Bowling Green. At midnight a company of soldiers surrounded the building. When called upon to surrender, Herold complied. Booth refused and the barn was set on fire. The flames revealed his position to Sergeant (Boston) Corbett, who sent a bullet through the assassin's brain. The final scene of the tragedy was in the yard of the Old Capitol Prison—the execution of Payne, Herold, Atzerodt, and Mrs. Surratt. Arnold, McLaughlin and Doctor Mudd were imprisoned in Key West. John H. Surratt alone escaped. He was arrested and brought to the United States for trial, but the jury disagreed.

Illinois claimed that the last resting place of her greatest citizen should be at Springfield. The route taken was the one traveled by Mr. Lincoln on his journey to Washington when about to assume the duties of the presidential office. In New York, Philadelphia, Albany, Syracuse, and Rochester thousands manifested their sorrow. No edifice at Cleveland could contain the crowds. Ohio and Indiana rendered homage to the greatness of Abraham Lincoln at the capitols at Columbus and Indianapolis. At Chicago a countless throng passed through the court-house, where his body lay in state. In the Capitol at Springfield his old friends and acquaintances beheld in the benignity of his countenance the benediction, "With malice toward none, with charity for all."

At last, on May 14, 1865, the coffin lid was closed. Simple the ceremonies at the tomb in Oak Ridge Cemetery—a hymn, a prayer, a brief address, and the reading of the second inaugural address of the departed President.

All the world laid wreaths upon the bier of Abraham Lincoln. No other ruler ever had such apotheosis—statesmen, orators, journalists, and poets came with their immortelles.

"The Old World and the New, from sea to sea,
Utter one word of sympathy and shame;
Sore heart, so stopped when it last beat high;
Sad life cut short just as its triumph came!"

—"London Punch."

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

16TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

BORN IN HARDIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY, FEBRUARY 12, 1809

ELECTED PRESIDENT, NOVEMBER 6, 1860

ASSASSINATED, APRIL 14, 1865

DIED IN WASHINGTON, D. C., APRIL 15, 1865



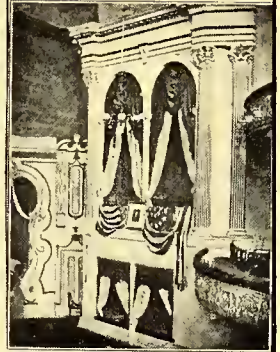
PETERSON HOUSE



PRESIDENT LINCOLN



Mrs. ABRAHAM LINCOLN



PRIVATE BOX



FORD'S THEATRE



JOHN WILKES BOOTH



Mrs. MARY SURRATT'S HOUSE



SERGEANT CHARLES CORBETT



ASSASSINS OF PRES. LINCOLN

FORD'S THEATRE

TENTH STREET, ABOVE E.

SEASON II. WEEK XXXI. NIGHT 100
WHOLE NUMBER OF NIGHTS, 650.

JOHN F. FORD, PROPRIETOR AND MANAGER
(Care of Holiday St. Theatre, Baltimore, and Academy of Music, Phila.)
Stage Manager, J. M. WHERRY
Theatre Manager, CLAY FORD

Friday Evening, April 14th, 1865

BENEFIT!

—AND—

LAST NIGHT
OF MISS

LAURA KEENE

THE DISTINGUISHED MANAGERESS, AUTHORRESS AND ACTRESS.

Supported by

MR. JOHN DYOTT

AND

MR. HARRY HAWK.

TOM TAYLOR'S CELEBRATED ECCENTRIC COMEDY,
As originally produced in America by Miss Keene, and performed by her upwards of

ONE THOUSAND NIGHTS,
REVISED
OUR AMERICAN

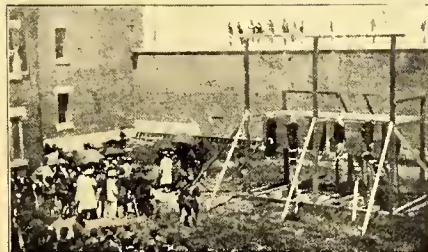
COUSIN

FLORENCE TRENCHARD.....MISS LAURA KEENE
(Her original character.)

Abel Murott, Clerk to Attorney.....	John Dyot
Ans Trenchard.....	Harry Hawk
De Edward Touchard.....	F. C. GOURLAY
Lord Dumfries.....	E. A. EMERSON
Mr. Coyle, Attorney.....	J. MATTHEWS
Medical Venetia, N. N.....	W. J. FERGUSON
Captain De Boon.....	C. BENEIS
Sherry.....	M. G. SPARK
Buddicom, a Valet.....	J. H. EVANS
John Whicker, a gardener.....	J. L. DE BONAY
Rasper, a stonemason.....	JOHNSON
Valley.....	O. A. PARKERBY
Mrs. Tranchard.....	MISS J. GOURLAY
Mrs. Mounthelington.....	Mrs. H. MUZZY
Angela.....	MISS W. TRUESMAN
Henry.....	MISS M. HAY
Sharpe.....	Mrs. J. H. EVANS
Skull.....	MISS H. GOURLAY



Miss LAURA KEENE



HANGING OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S ASSASSINS

SATURDAY EVENING, APRIL 15,
of Miss JENNIE GO
presented BOUCHICAULT'S Great Sensation
DOCTORS
at 17, Employment of the YOUNG AMERICANS
WIN ADA
FOR TWELVE NIGHTS ONLY
PRICES OF ADMIS
J. F. FORD, Business



The New
1/2
Mile Track
10th & E N. W.
Washington, D. C.
Where
John Wilkes
Booth
Took his last
Drink



THE CAPITOL, WASHINGTON, D. C.

DESCRIPTION OF PICTURE ON THIRD PAGE

1. Petersen House, 516 10th street northwest, where Lincoln was carried from the theater; now contains the Oldroyd collection of Lincoln relics.
2. Ford's Theater, opposite the Petersen House, where Lincoln was shot.
3. John Wilkes Booth, one of the famous Booth family of actors, assassin of Abraham Lincoln.
4. Booth's accomplices.
5. Yard at the Old Capitol Jail and the gallows where the assassins were hanged.

TOP, CENTER

1. Abraham Lincoln, the martyred President.
2. Mrs. Mary Todd Lincoln, his wife.
3. Facsimile of the program used at the theater on the night the President was shot.

LAST COLUMN

1. The box occupied by the presidential party.
2. Mrs. Mary Surratt's house, 541 H street northwest, Washington, D. C.
3. Sergt. Charles (Boston) Corbett, who shot Booth.
4. Miss Laura Keene, the actress for whom the benefit was given.
5. The ½-Mile Track, 10th and E streets northwest, where Booth bought his last drink.



MOUNT VERNON—HOME OF GEORGE WASHINGTON